



Montana Department of
LABOR & INDUSTRY
Commissioner's Office

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For Immediate Release:

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STEADY IN JUNE

(HELENA) --- Montana's unemployment rate held steady at 6.3% in June, with about 1,000 jobs added over the month. The national rate also held steady at 8.2% for the month.

"Montana continues to post strong job growth, despite concerns about slow job growth nationally," explained Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "Montana has added almost 10,000 jobs over the past year."

Total employment estimates, which include payroll, self-employed, and agricultural workers, indicate job growth of 991 in June, a gain of 9,761 over the last year. Payroll employment estimates indicate growth in private sector jobs, but job losses in the government sector kept the total job count level over the month.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) was unchanged in June. Energy prices continued to decrease in June, led by gasoline price declines, but the fall was offset by increases in the food index and the index for all items less food and energy. The index for all items less food and energy (also called core inflation) increased by 0.2% for the fourth straight month.

Montana's average annual wage was \$35,791 in 2011, a 3.5% increase in wages over 2010. When adjusted for inflation using the CPI-U, real wages increased by 0.3%.

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*** Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau at 1-800-541-3904.*

The July 2012 Labor Situation Report will be released on Friday, August 17.

******* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET *******



Visit our website at www.ourfactsyourfuture.org for additional information and analysis, including answers to questions about the unemployment rate, industry employment levels, and annual employment data for Montana's Indian Reservations. Check out this month's Economy at a Glance article on in demand jobs. County labor force information can be found by using this link:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/databrowsing/?PAGEID=4&SUBID=205>